

# Adventures with GOD!

## ANIMALS ARE A GIFT (A.3.WINTER.2)

Biblical Reference	Psalms 104: 1-14
Key Verse	Psalms 136: 25
Key Concept	Animals are a gift from God. He cares for them, so I care for them too.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share stories of the animals they have at home.</li> <li>2. Share how they care for their animals.</li> <li>3. Discuss how the animals help give us live.</li> <li>4. Reflect on the Key Verse.</li> </ol>

### Life Application

Many of us have the opportunity to have animals as pets such as dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, etc. Animals become like family, and we love and care for them every day. God expects us to care for them because they are beautiful gifts from him. It is important for children to understand the responsibility of taking care animals, because animals depend on us to give them food, water, and lots of love. Today, children will recognize animals as a gift from God.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	10 minutes
Introduction		5 minutes
Song	Songs	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, Illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	See Page 9	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at [CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god](http://CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god).

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible, we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Psalms 104: 1-14 two times, and ask children to respond.

**Question Examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

**Introduction:** Welcome children and talk about what they did during the week. When everyone has arrived, ask them about their small plant from last week.

**Song:** Find a song about animals. Sing a song with actions and movements to encourage an active time before entering into the story where they must remain seated.

**Bible Exploration:** Read the Key Verse aloud to children. Toddlers learn more from what they can see and hear. Consider bringing a small animal to class. Keep the Bible open in your hands, and explain that the bible is a book we must learn. Show pictures of different animals they can recognize by name and ask them to identify. You can use the illustrations on pages 4-8 or find pictures of your own. Ask: what is your favorite animal? The Bible teaches us that God made

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animals as a gift to us. Some animals are friends and pets. Ask: Do you have animals in the house? What are their names? The Bible teaches that God gave us some animals to use as a source of food. God made some animals that help us work. In ancient times and even today, people ride horses to go from one place to another. Some elephants use their strength to move things. End the story by giving thanks to God for all the wonderful animals he made for us.

**Craft:** See page 9. If there is extra time to fill, use the activity sheet on page 10.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

**G=God's Word:** What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

**R=Relationships:** Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

**O=Outward Action:** Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week.

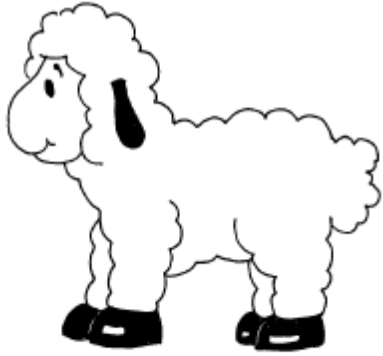
**W=Worship:** Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. The candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

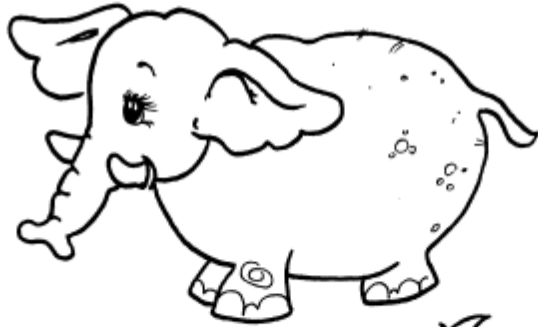
**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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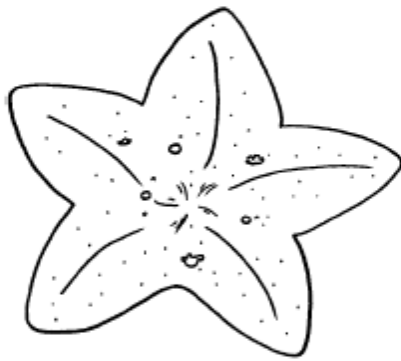
## Illustration



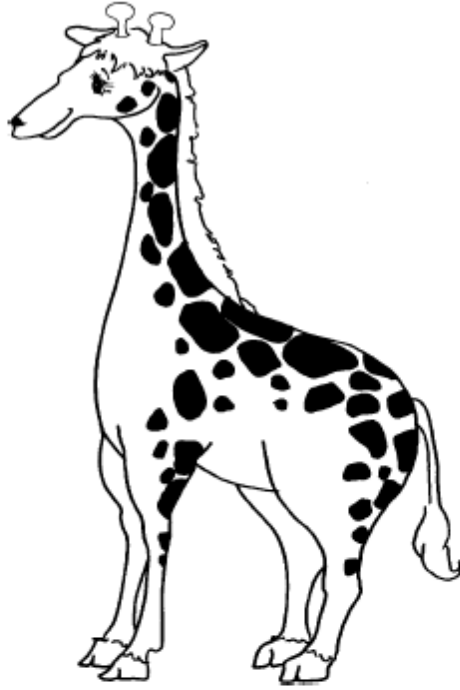
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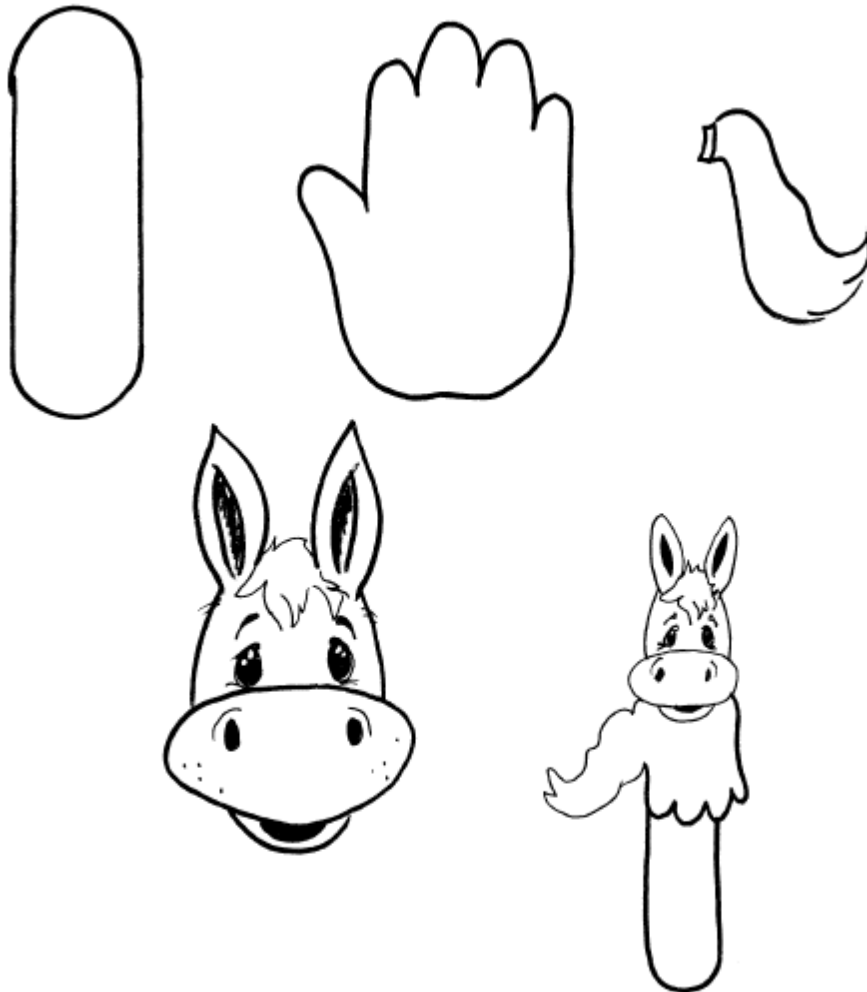


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## Craft

**Materials:** construction paper, popsicle sticks, cotton, scissors, crayons, glue

Help children to trace and cut an outline of their hand on a piece of construction paper. Children can decorate the remaining pieces with crayons, and can add cotton for the hair. To assemble, glue the pieces together on the popsicle stick as shown in the picture below.



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## Activity

Match each animal with corresponding picture.

